

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SY-05 SCCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 JUSE-00 SCS-03 AS-01 SCA-01 A-01 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4542

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 2045

FRANKFURT ALSO FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SW, GW, BW

SUBJECT: BAADER MEINHOF TERRORIST INCIDENT IN STOCKHOLM

REF: STOCKHOLM 2017

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING UPDATES AND SUPPLEMENTS EARLIER REPORTING. AFTER NIGHT OF TENSION AND EXPLOSIVE CLIMAX, MANY PIECES OF INFORMATION REMAIN TO BE FITTED INTO PLACE. SWEDISH GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO DEPICT SWEDISH EFFORT AS BETTER THAN HALFWAY SUCCESSFUL, BUT GOVERNMENT LEADERS ARE NO DOUBT LESS THAN PROUD. SOME STRAIN ON SWEDISH-GERMAN RELATIONS APPEARS INEVITABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL. DESTRUCTION OF CHANCERY AND ROUNDUP OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TERRORISTS OCCURRED LAST NIGHT IN SITUATION IN WHICH:

--- GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAD COMMUNICATED TO STOCKHOLM
ITS DECISION NOT TO RELEASE PRISONERS AND GOS
HAD SO INFORMED TERRORISTS;

--- SWEDISH AUTHORITIES (INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER PALME AND JUSTICE MINISTER GEIJER PERSONALLY) WERE TRYING VAINLY TO GET DIALOGUE GOING WITH TERRORISTS RE FREE PASSAGE OUT OF COUNTRY IF HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED (IN FACE OF TERRORISTS' INSISTENCE THAT THEY HAD NO INTEREST IN DIALOGUE WITH ANYONE EXCEPT WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT).

FEELING IS PREVALENT HERE THAT DESPITE SWEDISH INSISTENCE ON IMPOSSIBILITY OF FULL EFFECTIVENESS IN AN "OPEN SOCIETY," MORE EFFECTIVE POLICE WORK AND VISIBLE PRECAUTIONS COULD HAVE FORESTALLED INITIAL PENETRATION OF WEST GERMAN EMBASSY BY BAADER MEINHOF TERRORISTS WHOSE PRESENCE IN SWEDEN IN RECENT WEEKS WAS MUCH RUMORED. POSTMORTEM ATTENTION IS ALSO LIKELY TO INCLUDE FOCUS ON FACT FIREFIGHTING FORCES WERE NOT ON THE SCENE AT THE TIME OF THE EXPLOSION, DESPITE KNOWN THREAT. LONG DELAY ENSUED BEFORE THEY WENT INTO ACTION, BECAUSE POLICE (HUNDREDS OF THEM) HAD NOT YET NEUTRALIZED SIX OR SEVEN TERRORISTS WHO RUSHED OUT OF CHANCERY (LEAVING HOSTAGES INSIDE).

3. CASUALTIES. PRESS REPORTS CITE THREE DEAD, INCLUDING DEFENSE ATTACHE LT. COL. VON MIRBACH, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HANS HILLEGAART, AND A TERRORIST WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE. ONLY ONE SWEDISH POLICEMAN WAS INJURED SUFFICIENTLY TO REMAIN IN HOSPITAL OVERNIGHT. OTHER POLICEMEN WITH MINOR INJURIES FROM EXPLOSION REQUIRED ONLY FIRST AIDE. EARLIER REPORT THAT DETONATION CAUSED "MANY SERIOUS INJURIES" AMONG POLICE AND BYSTANDERS PROVED INACCURATE. GERMAN AMBASSADOR STOECKER REMAINS INCOMMUNICADO IN HOSPITAL, BUT IT IS BELIEVED HIS INJURIES DO NOT THREATEN HIS LIFE.

4. WEST GERMAN CHANCERY BUILDING. THE RESIDENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE CHANCERY COMPLEX LOOKS REPAIRABLE AND CURRENT OPERATIONS ARE CONDUCTED THERE BUT NOT THE OFFICE ELEMENT, WHICH APPEARS GUTTED. NATO DEFENSE ATTACHES ARE OF COURSE, CONCERNED AT POSSIBLE COMPROMISE OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS (SEPARATE MESSAGES).
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5. US-WEST GERMAN COOPERATION. WE HAVE OFFERED ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO OUR GERMAN COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING SAFE HAVEN SPACE FOR SAFES AND VAULTS. THUS FAR GERMAN EMBASSY STAFF HAS SEEMED TOO SHATTERED TO DO ANYTHING BEYOND EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR OFFER.

6. GERMAN-SWEDISH RELATIONS. FACT THAT PALME AND HIS MINISTERS REMAINED IN EMERGENCY SESSION AS TOP LEVEL CRISIS STAFF THROUGHOUT THURSDAY AFTERNOON EVENING AND WELL INTO FRIDAY MORNING, ILLUSTRATES SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOS VIEWED TERRORIST INCIDENT, ONCE IT ERUPTED. IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY PALME, BUT NOT EXPLICITLY STATED,

IN EARLY MORNING TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE WAS THAT WHILE GOS MIGHT HAVE PREFERRED GERMAN COMPLIANCE WITH TERRORISTS' DEMANDS, GOS WAS WILLING TO SOLDIER ON IN THE TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES THUS CREATED. SWEDISH PRESS HAS ALREADY VENTILATED BITTERNESS ON PART OF INDIVIDUAL GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICERS OVER LONG SUSPECTED, AND NOW PROVEN INADEQUACY, OF SWEDISH ANTI-TERRORIST DEFENSES.

7. IDENTITIES OF TERRORISTS. FIVE NAMES AVAILABLE FROM SWEDISH PRESS AGENCY ARE: BERNARD ROESSNER; SIEGFRIED HAUSNER; KARL HEINZ DELLVO; LUTZ TAUFER; HANNA KRABBE. MOST REPORTS MENTION TWO WOMEN. ONE TERRORIST, IDENTITY UNKNOWN, APPARENTLY COMMITTED SUICIDE AND ANOTHER TERRORIST, UNIDENTIFIED, REPORTEDLY FIRED ON THE POLICE WITHOUT EVER HAVING BEEN INSIDE THE EMBASSY.

8. IDENTITIES OF HOSTAGES. AVAILABLE NAMES OF GERMAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL INCLUDE VON MIRBACH AND HILLEGAART, KILLED; AMBASSADOR STOECKER, CULTURAL COUNSELOR ANNO ELFGEN, CULTURAL ATTACHE FRIEDRICH SCHRODT, THIRD SECRETARY HANS ELZER, PRESS OFFICER CLAUSEN. EMPLOYEES WALTER TOESCH, HANS JUERGEN DECHER, GERDER BOEDINGER, AND SECRETARY/STENOGRAPHER WETZEL

9. MEDIA COVERAGE. SWEDISH TV GAVE CONTINUING, ON THE SPOT COVERAGE TO THE EVENTS. AT THE MOMENT THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED, ABOUT 2345, TV CAMERAS WERE TURNED ON BUILDING BUT LIVE COVERAGE WAS NOT BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BROADCAST. WITHIN SECONDS THE TV WAS TRANSMITTING COVERAGE OF THE ENSUING FIRE AND THE SORTIE BY THE TERRORISTS. FURTHER COVERAGE INCLUDED INTERVIEWS WITH POLICE AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE.

10. INCIDENTALS. THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE AFTERNOON AND THE EVENING SWEDISH ON-THE-SPOT-TV COMMENTATORS CONSPICUOUSLY REFERRED TO THE TERRORISTS AS THE "OCCUPIERS." ONE OF THEM SLIPPED ONCE AND SAID "TERRORISTS" BUT APOLOGIZED. WHEN PALME AND JUSTICEMINISTER GEIJER SPOKE LATER THEY DID NOT HESITATE TO USE THE TERM "TERRORISTS." TO EDITORIALIZE, ANOTHER SICKENING ASPECT OF THE MEDIA COVERAGE WAS THE AMOUNT OF FOOTAGE GIVEN OVER TO EARLIER SWEDISH COVERAGE OF BAADER MEINHOF ACTIVITIES TENDENTIOUSLY APOLOGETIC FOR TERRORISM AS UNDERSTANDABLE RESPONSE TO NEO-FASCISM AND POLICE BRUTALITY IN WEST GERMANY. ONE SUCH APOLOGIA CAME FROM AUTHOR BENG T BERT ENGELMAN.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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